Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 111534Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8397

SECDEF WASHDC

OSAF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

USDEL MC NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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OSD FOR LA AND PA; ISA; OSAF FOR SAFLLO

E.O. 11652: GDS - 31 DEC 81

SUBJECT: CODEL VISIT TO EUROPE (SCHWEIKER) (U)

REF: STATE 55188

- 1. (U) VISIT TO PARIS FOLLOWED ITINERARY OUTLINED IN USDAO PARIS MSG 272028Z MAR 75.
- 2. (C) MEETING WITH FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENSE BOURGES WAS SUCCESSFUL AND EXTENDED BEYOND ALLOTTED HOUR BY 30 MINUTES. MINISTER BOURGES RESPONDED TO A WIDE VARIETY OF QUESTIONS ON FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY (INCLUDING POLICY CONFIDENTIAL

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TOWARD NATO), ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL,

AND VIEWS ON DETENTE. HIS RESPONSES WERE SUBSTANTIALLY RESTATEMENTS OF PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FRENCH POSITIONS. HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE VIABILITY OF REDUCING THE LEVEL OF CURRENT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE, INDICATING ONLY THAT THE LEVEL SHOULD BE ADEQUATE ENOUGH THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL CONSIDER THEMSELVES FULLY INVOLVED IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE. DETAILS MORE FULLY EXPANDED IN USDAO PARIS IR 6 832 0123 75.

- 3. SUBSEQUENT LUNCH WITH MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS HELD AT A PRIVATE CLUB NEAR THE ASSEMBLY. SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS ARE REFLECTED IN U.S. EMBASSY PARIS MEM CON DATED 4 APRIL 1975. COPY BEING MAILED TO STATE AND SAFLLO.
- 4. (C) AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR RUSH, THE DELEGATION MET AND TALKED WITH GENERAL FRANCOIS MAURIN, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES. DURING A LENGTHLY SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS, GENERAL MAURIN REITERATED THE FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY POSITIONS STATED EARLIER BY MOD BOURGES; HE WAS MORE EXPLICIT THAN MOD BOURGES CONCERNING POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS IN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE, EMPHASIZING THAT ANY REDUCTION WOULD NECESSARILY DETRACT FROM THE CREDIBILITY OF U.S. AND ALLIED RESOLVE TO DEFEND AGAINST THE WARSAW PACT THREAT.
- 5. (U) SUMMARY: VISIT WENT OFF WELL. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS DID NOT REVEAL ANY CHANGE IN FRENCH POSITIONS. THE CODEL APPEARED TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE LEVEL OF CANDOR EXHIBITED BY ALL CONTACTS. RUSH RUSH

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